

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 10-15 and 18-23 are pending in the application.

RCE was filed

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-17 are pending. The Applicant respectfully draws to the Examiner's attention the RCE filed January 10, 2006, in which claims 6-9, 16 and 17 were canceled and claims 18-23 were added. Examination of claims 18-23 is respectfully requested.

Claim rejections

Section 103

Claims 1-12 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hays, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 4,354,227) ("Hays") in view of Forman et al. (US 5,544,353). Of these claims, claims 1-5, 10 and 12 remain pending. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Hays and Forman do not support the asserted rejection for at least the reason that they do not suggest multiple levels of control of access to shared resources via a semaphore and a resource descriptor as in the present claims.

The Examiner correctly observes that Hays does not disclose obtaining exclusive access to a resource descriptor as claimed. Similarly, Forman does not disclose obtaining a lock on a semaphore that controls access to a resource descriptor, and if the lock is obtained, obtaining exclusive access to the resource descriptor as recited in claim 1, for example. Instead, Forman only discloses attempting to directly reserve a resource via a "shared control file." See, e.g., Forman at col. 4, lines 23-26: "If [an attempt to hold exclusive write access to a shared control file] is successful, the process updates the shared control file 160 and becomes master of that resource." The shared control file is the sole level of control of access to the resource. There is no additional level wherein a lock on a semaphore that controls access to a resource descriptor is obtained before the resource descriptor is accessed to try to reserve a resource, as in the present claims.

All of the independent claims recite elements for multiple levels of control. Claim 1 was discussed above. Independent claim 10 recites "a resource descriptor to identify

a status of said shared resources; and a semaphore to reserve exclusive access for one of said plurality of logical processors to said resource descriptor.” Independent claim 13 recites “setting a lock bit in a semaphore register to reserve exclusive access to a resource descriptor register” and “applying said first bitmap to said resource descriptor register to reserve said first required resource.” Independent claim 18 recites “a resource descriptor to control access to said resources” and “a semaphore register to reserve exclusive access for one of said plurality of logical processors to said resource descriptor.”

In view of the above, withdrawal of the asserted rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hays and Forman, and further in view of Scalzi et al. (US 5,895,494). Claim 17 has been canceled.

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hays and Forman, and further in view of Florek (US 6,795,901). The Applicant respectfully traverses. As noted above, independent claim 13 is allowable over Hays and Forman for at least the reason that it recites “setting a lock bit in a semaphore register to reserve exclusive access to a resource descriptor register” and “applying said first bitmap to said resource descriptor register to reserve said first required resource,” and thus, multiple levels of control that are absent from Hays and Forman. Florek does not remedy the deficiencies in Hays and Forman. Withdrawal of the asserted rejection is therefore respectfully requested.

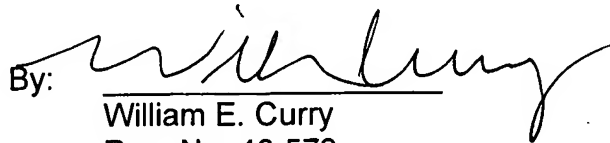
Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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